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ABSTRACT

Descriptions of scholastic competitions for Marin County (California) students are presented. Following a rationale for conducting scholastic competitions, community groups and businesses which lend support are listed along with the type of support given. Participating grade levels, dates of competition during the 1983-84 school year, and a brief description are given for each of the following five competitions: (1) spelling bees; (2) countywide science fair; (3) San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair; (4) mathematics competition or mathletes; and (5) the Marin/Sonoma Counties Academic Decathlon. This document was selected by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Task Force on Public Confidence as descriptive of a promising practice or exemplary project worthy of highlighting for the California educational community. (DC)

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ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

Marin County Office of Education
San Rafael, California

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TM 832023

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM DESCRIPTION FORM

Name of School, District or Agency Marin Co. Office of Education Grade Levels 4 through 12

Address P.O. Box 4925, 1111 Las Gallinas Avenue Telephone (415) 472-4110

City San Rafael State California Zip 94913

Name of Contact Person Dolores O'Donoghue ACSA Region IV

Name of Course, Program, Project or Policy Academic Competitions

Date of Operation of Program or Project 1983-84

In 300 words or less please describe your program specifically enough for others to follow. Please include your program's
(1) primary purpose (how it benefits students)
(2) participants (grade levels of students, professional staff, community persons, etc)
(3) evaluation data (if available)

(SEE ATTACHED)

Permission to reproduce this program description and accompanying materials (if any) is granted to ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center).

NAME Dolores O'Donoghue DATE 1/6/84

Enclose supporting or descriptive materials and return to ACSA Public Confidence Task Force, Public Relations Department, 1517 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

HERE THEY'RE CHEERING FOR SCHOLASTIC HEROES!

In an attempt to improve the image of and promote support for public education, the Marin County Office of Education has embarked in a campaign to showcase its students from grades 4-12, their teachers, and their schools through a series of academic competitions in Math, Science, and Language Arts for 1983-84. (see attachment).

Research indicates academic competition to be valuable for improving the effectiveness of schools and bettering student self image. Receiving recognition and positive rewards from teachers, parents, and peers for studying and demonstrating new knowledge will establish new student success models, providing incentives for other students to strive for academic excellence.

These competitions enlist community involvement as follows:

Regional and County-wide Spelling Bees (gr.4-6 and 7-9)	Independent Journal, co-sponsor: funding, judges and publicity. Marin Board of Realtors, co-sponsor: funding, the Spelling Master, and judges.
County-wide Science Fair (gr.4-10)	Marin Rod and Gun Club, co-sponsor: Funding, and use of facilities.
Mathletes (gr. 7-8) 4 meets	Education Task Force, co-sponsor: funding for awards, printed materials.

Marin/ Sonoma Academic Decathlon (11-12 gr.)	10 High Schools - 60 student participants- and nearly 150 volunteers from the educational community and the public sector.
	Toastmasters International of Marin Clubs: judges for prepared and impromptu speech events.
	Independent Journal, Marin Suburban Newspapers: judges for interviews; publicity.
	Chevron USA, Marin Charitable Association, and The Marin Education Foundation: financial support.
	Marin County School Board Association, Association of California School Administrators, Marin County School Administrators Association: financial support.
	Scan-Tron Corporation: Scoring of all-day tests.
	P.G. & E.: Executive to act as Master of Ceremonies for Awards Reception.

Eliciting support from the community and businesses for these competitions not only provides for additional funding and sustaining services, but also emphasizes to the public examples of high quality education, and inspires students to seek ever greater academic achievement and recognition.

MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

1983-84

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

EVENT	PARTICIPATING GRADE LEVELS	DATE(S)
Marin/Sonoma Counties ACADEMIC DECATHLON	Grades 11-12	Saturday, November 19, 1983 College of Marin 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DESCRIPTION

A contest of academic strength, the Academic Decathlon consists of 10 exciting and exacting trials. 6 of the tests are "pencil and paper" exams covering Economics; English and Literature; Fine Arts; Math; Science; Social Sciences. 3 tests of communication skills include Speechmaking, Essay Writing, and a personal interview regarding the student's extra-curricular activities. The Super Quiz on current events caps the activities.

Participating schools select a team of 6 students to represent them in categories according to individual grade point averages. Beautiful trophies, gold, silver and bronze decathlon medals will be presented to team and individual event winners at a reception following the all-day competition. The winning team will represent Marin/Sonoma Counties at the Statewide Academic Decathlon in Southern California on December 28, 1983.

EVENT	PARTICIPATING GRADE LEVELS	DATE(S)
Marin County MATHEMATICS COMPETITION or MATHLETES	Grades 7 & 8	1. Thursday, October 18, 1983 2. Thursday, December 8, 1983 3. Wednesday, February 1, 1984 4. Wednesday, March 7, 1984 -All Math Meets will take place at the MCOE Multi-Purpose Rm. at 3:45 P.M.

DESCRIPTION

Mathletes consists of a series of four meets for seventh and eighth graders who accumulate points both individually and as a team. Each school can send a five member team with two alternates for each grade level, 7 and 8.
The competition consists of math problems being distributed and students having 2 - 5 minutes to solve them. The answer is then given and explained.
Individual and team awards will be distributed at the Student/Teacher Math Conference at Redwood High School on March 24, 1984.

EVENT	PARTICIPATING GRADE LEVELS	DATE(S)
COUNTYWIDE SCIENCE FAIR	Grades 4-10	Wednesday, March 14, 1984 8:00 am to 7:30 pm Marin Rod & Gun Club March 13- set up and judging March 14- open to public March 15- All projects removed by 5:00 pm

DESCRIPTION

Students will be asked to write an abstract of the purpose of their projects, the method of solution, and the significant conclusions of their results. The four categories of competition are as follows: Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computers, and Behavioral Sciences. A special award will be given for projects concerning the Environmental Sciences.

EVENT	PARTICIPATING GRADE LEVEL	DATE(S)
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SCIENCE FAIR	Grades 7 - 12	March 31-April 4, 1984 California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park -March 26-set up -March 28 & 29-Judging -March 31-April 4-open to public -April 5- all projects removed

DESCRIPTION

The top Marin County winners and placers in each category for grades 7 - 10 will qualify to compete in the Bay Area Science Fair.

EVENT	PARTICIPATING GRADE LEVEL	DATE(S)
SPELLING BEES	Grades 4 - 6 Grades 7 - 9	The regional and countywide bees will take place during March and April, 1984. Dates and location to be announced.

DESCRIPTION

Initially, school level contests will be held, with the top winners qualifying for the 6 regional events which are organized around high school feeder districts.
The top 4 regional winners in each division, Elementary and Jr. High, will be eligible to compete in the countywide Spelling Bee, with those two top winners in each division proceeding to the state level competition.